

Application No. 10/044,484
Amendment dated March 3, 2005
Reply to Final Office Action of January 10, 2005

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-24 were pending in this application. Claims 1, 10 and 18 have been amended. Claim 24 has been cancelled. Hence, claims 1-23 remain pending. Reconsideration of the subject application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,658,626 to Aiken ("Aiken").

Claims 1, 10, and 18 have been amended to more particularly recite the Applicants' claimed invention. No new matter has been added.

Interview Summary

The Applicants thank the Examiner for her time and attention during the interview conducted on February 25, 2005. Irvin Branch, attorney for the applicants, and Examiner Le were present for the interview. During that interview, the parties discussed the Applicants' claims in view of the cited references, particularly the definition of "key segment" and the content of the temporary file. The amendments herein are responsive to that discussion.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-23, as amended, are believed to be allowable over the cited references. For example, claim 1 includes "wherein the record in the temporary file includes at least one field and wherein the at least one field includes a copy of the matching data from the first and second files." This is not taught by Aiken. Aiken appears to teach storing hash value, position, and offset information in an index file. Nowhere does Aiken teach storing a copy of the matching data. Hence, claim 1 is believed to be allowable for at least this reason.

Further, claim 1 includes "in response to an input that designates at least one field as a key segment, comparing data contained in the key segment of each record of a first file to data in a related key segment of each record of a second file." Aiken also does not teach this.

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Aiken appears to teach comparing substrings in one file to substrings in a second file, neither substring having been designated a "key segment." In other words, Aiken appears to compare the entire contents on one file to another, while according to the Applicants' claimed invention, only data in certain key segments is compared. Claim 1 is believed to be allowable for at least this additional reason.

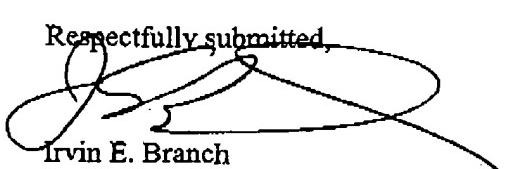
Likewise, claims 10 and 18 include similar limitations and are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons. The remaining claims depend from one of claims 1, 10, and 18, and are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,


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